THE CASE Of Colonel John Lambert, Prisoner in the TOWER Of LONDON.

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FRom the level of that ambitious prospect, which presented *Castles*, *Palaces*, *Thrones*, built by a glorious imagination in the fixed Element of the Earth; View and behold the realities of those abasements and miseries, which have in lieu of trains and retinue, attended this unfortunate person, (yet in a Princely Mansion) the *Tower* of *London*.

Behold and consider the vast and unlimited designes of a more unbounded mind, pen'd up, and confined with his body within a narrow compasse, and scantling of place, where the Plot of *Aspiring*, hath wortied it self

to the quiet desire of *Respiring*.

Consider him yet further, ruminating and harshly digesting those crude and raw morsels of an intended Usurpation; the disgusts whereof, in the greatest freedom of Air, the meanest fugitives of his party (enjoy not but) breath in, would surfet and kill any one but *Lucifer*.

Reckon lastly, the throws of his disappointment, his ambition brought to the birth, and then wanting strength to bring forth; all his honour and greatnesse laid in the dirt, and himself stuck fast in the mire; and then you cannot but favourably reflect on these stately Ruines.

In the tracing of which, it will be requisite to deduce them from their fair originals, the account whereof, take in briefs. His Ancestry were of a very ancient, and as noble extraction, inhabiting for some ages past, part of the *East-Riding* of *Yorkshire*, having there valuable Possessions, and a Mannor place, called *Craven*, where he last projected his grand Enterprize, (after the *Cheshire* businesse) of raising himself upon the ruines of that wretched Commonwealth. Thither (as he supposed) he resorted, for the more auspicious commencement and laying of his design, out of a superstition to the Genij and Penates of that native place of his Family, the better to succeed in his new intended greatnesse, and advancement of his House; A Custom observed very religiously by the noble Romans, and performed by them with sacrifices and adoration.

His immediate Ancestor (his Father,) was a Gentleman very well beloved in this Country, much respected by one of the honourablest Families in that part of *England*; in which noble acquaintance, this Colonel had the honour to be concerned, and to say the truth, did in the unhappy time of our troubles, discharge all

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these obligations which had been accumulated on his Family, by a powerful timely intervening, and preventing the late, and consequently the present ruine of their Estate.

He took Armes at first under my Lord *Fairfax*, induced by the same specious pretences which deluded half the Kingdom; But the War growing to be a Trade, and he preferred to several Commands, that deceit, by the lies long told, was Alchymisted into a perswasion of Truth, which confirmed by Money and Advancement, never after would admit any Doubts or Disputes within him. Nevertheless through all the War he behaved himself as a generous Enemy, nor was there any Treachery or baseness ever laid to his charge.

In that monstrous Conspiracy against the Life of our Late Soveraign, he would not be engaged privately, nor did he act any thing publickly in that matter, further than as an Officer of the Army, in their Councils of War; and that business was to be transacted by another kind of power, which he wisely and prudentially avoided, and perhaps innocently.

He was never a spiteful malicious Foe to the Cavalier Party, declining all Employments and Commands which required asperity and harshness towards them; but doing them (as far as was Convenient and Consistent for an Enemy) all the Courtesies and Kindnesses that lay in his way. Some affirm that this was out of a fore-casted Design of Cajoling them: On the contrary, others affirm that he was more Sincere and Noble.

This is most certain, that being made Governour of *Oxford*, after the Surrender in 1646. where after six Months, the Parliament were left to their will, in the ordering both of University and City. He personally acted nothing there, as foreknowing what an ungrateful

and barbarous work he should be put upon, but remitted it to his Deputy, not being so hardy himself as to venture upon the sharp points of the Scholars Pens, and beget himself a perpetual Hatred and Infamy: Though out of all question he was then, and is yet a lover of Arts and Learning, and might, and probably did forbear that Province more out of Reverence to them, than through any Policy.

To his Civility adde his Courage, which was Superlatively eminent in him. These two Vertues seldome meet in Conjunction, but their Influences are very benign, and portend much good; but they were in him it seems moved by a Superiour Orb; His Ambition like other sphears a contrary way. The Moralists therefore say, That that is not properly Courage, by which bold men Invade and Usurp, that being a Vertue, and Conversant only either in vindictive Armes, when Injuries and Hostilities are revenged by War: Or in assisting an Auxiliary, to succour and defend the oppress'd. But setting aside the Philosophical niceties, for Valour and presentnesse of mind, no man during the War out-went him, witnesse *Naseby*, *Marston* Moor, *Preston*, particularly *Dunbar*, where the Honour of that Day (if any there were, or could be in such a War against their Prince) may be equally shared betwixt him and the most Noble——— For *Cromwel* was more a Spectator, and Director, than Actor in that fatal Field.

Leave we the Army, and their Elogies, and high Commendations for him, for the civilest bravest Captain that ever Commanded amongst them; And view him next as a States-man, called and cull'd out to assist *Oliver* in that dangerous Attempt of altering the Government from a Common-wealth, to a single Tyranny.

And in this particular he may well be said to have obliged

liged his Cavalier Enemies, for a more grateful favour, and better resented by that Party, ever in or after the War, was not, nor could be done them. 'Twas the first step, though unseen by themselves, that led to that general ruine we saw involved them altogether. This *Cromwel* durst never upon his single Reputation in the Army have ventured upon, and therefore this Major General became his Adjutant General by his great Interest in the Army.

Having done this acceptable service to the Kingdom, the necessitudes which had conciled that Intimacy and Friendship betwixt *Cromwel* and him being removed, and the Col. growing every day more popular in the Army and Kingdom, it was high time for the aspiring Protector, to quit all those private Engagements and Conditions that had past between them; Upon the first overture thereof, the Col. roundly and freely taxed him with breach of promise, insisting upon publick good chiefly, but yet insinuating, but that discoverately enough the looseneſſe of his Faith towards himself.

This gave an open occasion of dismissing him first from his Company and Converse, and soon after from his Council and Command in the Army, to disable him totally from attempting any Considerable thing against him. This highly incensed the over-reach'd Col. but help himself he could not; To thwart *Cromwel* in his Usurpation, lay things in his way to his greatness, was the most he could effect; and therefore to that he applyed himself with all earnestneſſe and Industry. Thus he made apparent to *Cromwel* in the first Parliament he called, where he and his Party stickled so against the Instrument of Government (the Finical Model of the Protectorship) that *Oliver* mist of his aim of settling himself in his new Usurpation by the Authority of that Parliament. And indeed no man knows where the

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Extravagancies of that wild Tyranny would have terminated, had not the fear of *Lamberts* Potency in the Army, the ſtrength on which they both relyed, kept him in ſome Decorum; So that now the Col. was cryed up for a Patriot, and eſteemed a very honeſt man, and certainly ſuch an Enterpoſition as this, could not merit leſſe than that Character for him.

This was a Thorn on one ſide to the Protectors Entruſions: Soon after he goaded him on the other. *Oliver* would as certainly have been King, had the danger from *Lambert* not been too evidently apparent, upon his acceptation of that Title, as ſure as he is now a Priſoner, And what an immortal ſhame had it been to this Nation, if the Majeſty Imperial of *England*, had been reſted in ſuch an Impious and baſe Fellow, or his pittyful Race after him. Doubtleſſe it was an Extraordinary Indulgence of Heaven, to ſave us from that ſcandalous Ignominy. And though the Polititians of the Times, Divined and Conſulted, that as the moſt ready and powerful expedient way to his ruine, yet we ſee it was not ſo in Gods Eye, who by keeping up his perſons Eſteem, prevented that Contumely, and choſe a better way to our Reſtitution and Settlement, wherein alſo he made this man in one ſence, the principal and chief Inſtrument.

For with what a diſmal look did the Face of Things appear, when the Hunger-ſtarved Rumpers, ſevenfold more Devils in ill qualities than before, repoſſeſſe themſelves of their Seats in Parliament? Who can without affrightment think of that 7*th.* Day of *May*, when they reſumed their power? This black ſtorm did this perſon drive from us, and diſpended thoſe Clouds which impended over us. This is he whoſe Intereſt and Faction ſo divided the Army, that all Endeavours of uniting them came to nothing.

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This is he, who by erecting an Arbitrary Committee of Safety, a name ſo much a Stranger to the people of *England*, both to its Name, and their Condition, that it awakened the moſt Indifferent, nay very Enemies of our Ancient Government, to bethink themſelves how they might ſhake off this Yoak, and return to Obedience, and the protection of the Laws. This is he, who by marching ſo far Northward, gave opportunity to the King and Kingdoms Friends to lay the Foundation of that Settlement, which was ſoon afterwards ſo glorioufly accompliſh'd. In a word, this is he, without whoſe unjuſt Ambition, we probably could never have obtained our juſt Deſires.

Neceſſary Evils were never yet abhorred, nay ſome we commonly term, ſo are much our Delight and Contentment. The World cannot be, nor conſiſt without them, no more than the Sea would keep ſweet and not putrifie, if boiſterous Winds did not violently move it.

Men have their Fates and Inclinations born with them, and 'twas this unfortunate Perſons Deſtiny, to be deſigned for a trouble World, whom yet Providence not only reſtrained from doing harm, but all along brought forth a *Soveraign* good from his worſt Actions and Intentions; And now ſince there is no uſe of him, let us not caſt him away, but lay him aſide.

It may alſo be conſidered, that he hath had no deep hand in the blood of any, but what was ſpilt in the Field; remembring alſo how civilly he treated and uſed the *Cheſhire* men, after their defeat, ſo bidding either to kill or plunder, a favour never practiſed by any Com-

man ler in chief of that Party, where they had Power and Victory.

But ſtill his Ambition, and eagerly proſecuted Uſurpation, a crime not ſufferable by a Prince (you'l ſay) reclaims againſt all pardon and forgiveneſſe, and that it ſtands not with his honour and ſafety to grant it. 'Tis true, but in his behalf it may be alledged, that he never admitted or entertained ſuch treaſonable or preſumptuous thoughts, till ſuch time as the inveterate miſchief of Anarchy had infected him, by the conceit of his own worth, that he was as fit and capable to govern as the beſt of them; And when once *Oliver* had beaten the track, he that was as deeply rooted in the affections of the Army, might eaſily be led to undertake the ſame Grandeur; and this done in a time too, (from the beginning of his projected Supremacy, to the end of it), when the Right of His Majeſty was *Conclamatum*, and as was thought by them utterly vacated; His Authority here being as invincible as his Perſon.

No doubt before the final concluſion of his imaginary greatneſſe, he would have come over and complyed, but he found the buſineſſe was done elſewhere before him, and then his cloſure would be but ridiculous, which the greatneſſe of his ſpirit could not brook, having never thitherto learned obedience to the King.

To conclude, *Henry* the ſeventh, Royal Progenitor of His Sacred Majeſty, pardoned two perſons, *Lawrence Simnet*, and *Perkins Worbeck*, who preſumed (the King then *in Regno*) to to uſurp the Nime, Stile, and Title of King of *England*, and kept the firſt about His Perſon;

ſon; The other, after many relapſes into his fond vain-glorious Opinion, was Executed. There is no fear of this in this Gentleman; And therefore to the Kings mercy we leave him.

FINIS.